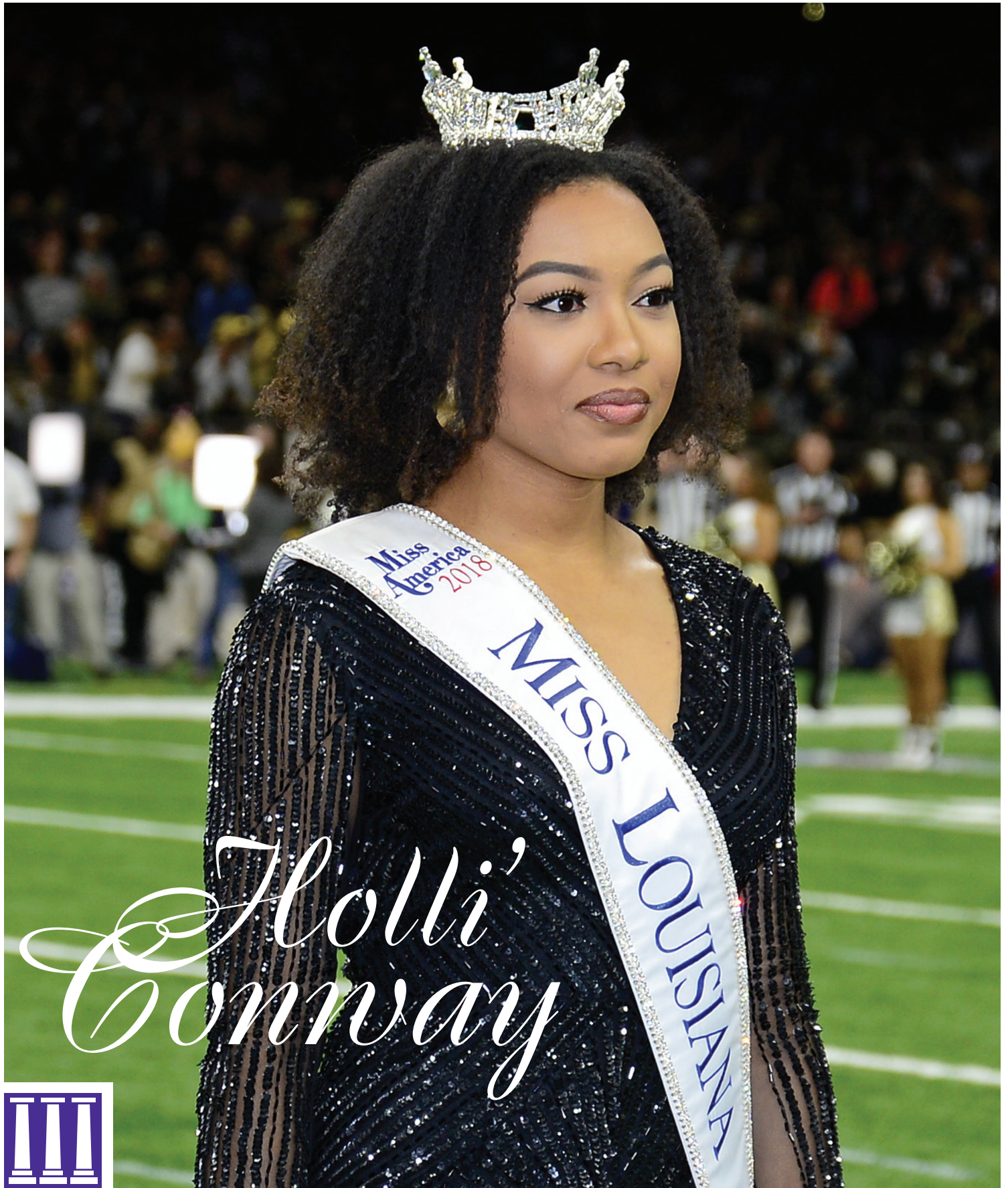


WINTER 2019 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine



*Hollie
Conway*





*Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State
University*

Dear Alumni:

It seems that each year is more exciting than the last and we are proud to list the successes that occurred at Northwestern State in 2018. We welcomed the largest incoming freshman class and recorded the largest enrollment in university's history. Our retention rates and our graduation numbers keep growing. Pride in Northwestern State is stronger than ever.

With a new year comes renewed optimism and excitement about possibilities. Our recruiters will be traveling the state to visit with prospective students, but our best ambassadors are YOU, our alumni. When you visit with a prospective student, whether a traditional or non-traditional, you have the opportunity to share what a special place NSU is and the sense of family that remains long after you earned your degree.

As we begin 2019, we at NSU remain focused on our goals of academic excellence, community enrichment, athletic prominence, market responsiveness and providing the best experience for each and every student.

We have been blessed as a university, as a community and as a family. Jennifer and I and our children offer you the best best wishes for 2019.



*Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

Dear Alumni:

As we embark on another new year, I must express immense gratitude to you for your continued support of Northwestern State University. 2018 was a year of tremendous engagement with our alumni, stakeholders and external partners. It was not a year without challenges, but your support in the form of giving, volunteering, mentoring and promoting has had a significant impact on everything we do in helping students and their faculty mentors.

Looking ahead, we remain purposeful in being good stewards of our resources. Several projects are underway at Northwestern that will enhance learning, growth and service opportunities. Many of these endeavors reach outside the NSU campus to embrace the community beyond.

Our office is dedicated to keeping you connected to your NSU family. Be on the lookout for news and announcements about events in which you can participate wherever you are. If there is a way that we can help you become more connected, we are open to suggestions.

Thank you again for all you do and may 2019 be our best year yet.

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NSU ALUMNI OFFICERS

President.....W. Lane Luckie, Tyler, Texas, 2008
1st Vice President.....Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978
2nd Vice President.....David Stamey, Natchitoches, 1982
Secretary.....Virginia Monceret, New Roads, 2001
Treasurer.....Nikki Ceaser Small, Dallas, Texas, 200

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

NSU President.....Dr. Chris Maggio, 1985, 1991
Vice President for External Affairs.....Jerry Pierce, 1961
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs
for University Advancement.....Drake Owens, 2004, 2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. P. Cade Brumley.....New Orleans, 2002
Jerry Brungart.....Natchitoches, 1969, 1971
Tommy Chester.....Natchitoches, 1969
Monty Chicola.....Natchitoches, 1979, 1980
Caron Chester Coleman.....Natchitoches, 2000
Shade Dufrene.....Baton Rouge, 1999, 2003
Leonard Endris.....Shreveport, 1974, 1975
Allen Evans.....Shreveport, 1989
John Evans.....Natchitoches, 1992
Dr. Hayward Hargrove.....Black Mountain, N.C., 1964
Trey Hill.....Carencro, 1985
Carlos Jones.....Round Rock, Texas, 1993
Gail Jones.....Natchez, 1981, 1998
Matt Koury.....Leesville, 1995
Bryant Lewis.....Haynesville, 1958
Dr. Lisa Landry Mathews.....Shreveport, 1992
Kim Martin.....Lake Charles, 1988
Leah Sherman Middlebrook.....Dallas, 1986, 2016
Virginia Monceret.....New Roads, 2001
Kip Patrick.....Washington, DC, 1995
Cliff Poimboeuf.....Shreveport, 1984
Michael Prudhomme.....Natchez, 1984
Joseph W. Schelette.....Shreveport, 1969
Nikki Ceaser Small.....Dallas, Texas, 2007
Mark Spikes.....League City, Texas, 1991
David Stamey.....Natchitoches, 1982
Joseph B. Stamey.....Natchitoches, 1983
Glenn Talbert.....Shreveport, 1964
Taylor Townsend.....Natchitoches, 1986
Carlos Treadway.....Northville, MI, 1992
Marti Vienne.....Natchitoches, 1982
Jim Villard.....Alexandria, 1983
Dr. Leonard Williams.....New Orleans, 1993

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jacob Ellis.....Athens, SGA President
Publisher.....Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Editor.....Leah Pilcher Jackson, 1994, 2011
Contributors.....David West
Doug Ireland, 1986
Matthew Vines, 2016
Chris Little
Photography.....Chris Reich, 2007, 2009
Gary Hardamon
Design/Layout.....Beth McPherson Mann, 1975

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Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees – Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359); Students – Frances Conine, Dean of Students (318-357-5286). For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Disability Support Director, Catherine Fauchaux, at 318-357-4460. Additionally, Northwestern complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy & Campus Crime Statistics Act. Information about NSU's campus security and crime statistics can be found at <http://universitypolice.nsula.edu/annual-security-report/>. Full disclosure statement: <http://universityplanning.nsula.edu/notice-of-non-discrimination>.

BY THE NUMBERS



of Scholarships Awarded in 2018

SPRING

Students awarded 951
Scholarship amount \$996,155.66

SUMMER

Students awarded 85
Scholarship amount \$79,548.02

FALL

Students awarded 1,283
Scholarship amount \$1,032,817.15

1,000+
of notes written
on Thank a Donor Day

20 # of Years Coach Mike McConathy has been at NSU



6 # of conference regular-season and tournament championships

284 # of overall wins with the Demons (entering this season)

89% Graduation percentage of student-athletes

20 # of postseason tournament wins, including 2 NCAA Tournament wins

0 # of Days Chief Caddo will spend away from NSU this year



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Students and faculty in NSU's Department of Theater and Dance welcomed 2016 alumna Miss Louisiana Holli Conway back to campus during a reception just a few days after she was named second runner-up in the Miss America pageant. Conway was MC for the Miss Northwestern-Lady of the Bracelet pageant in September.

Our own Holli' Conway represents as Miss Louisiana

Miss Louisiana Holli' Conway of Monroe won second runner-up in the Miss American competition that concluded Sept. 9 in Atlantic City on Conway's 24th birthday. Conway won the talent competition on the second night of preliminaries.

Conway is a 2016 magna cum laude graduate of NSU where she earned a degree in musical theatre and was a track and field student-athlete.

She won the talent competition singing "I Believe."

Conway returned to NSU the week after the Miss America pageant to serve as mistress of ceremonies for the Miss Northwestern-Lady of the Bracelet pageant.

Until four years ago, she had never competed in a pageant. She first competed in and won Miss Taste of the Twin Cities in 2015. As Miss Heart of Pilot in 2016, she was first runner-up at Miss Louisiana.

She spent the year prior to becoming Miss Louisiana traveling the world on Carnival Cruise Line's Sunshine and Elation as a playlist performer.

At NSU Conway was a featured performer in "Hairspray," "Rent," "Songs for a New World," "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" and "Avenue Q." She can sing in three languages and is trained in ballet, tap, jazz and modern dance.

Conway grew up as a competitive athlete, finding her inspiration from her dad, a two-time Olympic medalist.

She travels the state promoting her personal platform, InspHIGHER, a motivational program that guides men, women and children as they strive to reach their highest aptitudes. Conway is the official hostess for the State of Louisiana and spokesperson for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Vantage Health Plan, Pro-pane Dealers of Louisiana and the Louisiana Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Conway performed the national anthem for the New Orleans Saints vs. Atlanta Falcons game in the Superdome on Thanksgiving night. That performance can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuUM3aEZrhg>.



Miss 2010 Lady of the Bracelet

Carley McCord (2011) was also part of the Saints Nov. 22 game. McCord is in the middle of exciting seasons for the Saints and the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans. She is the in-game host for the Saints and Pelicans' in-house broadcasts seen on the videoboard and monitors for each home game. McCord makes frequent appearances as a general sports reporter for WDSU TV in New Orleans and is a sideline reporter for ESPN3, ESPN+ and Cox Sports Television. She's also a host and digital media reporter (LaSportsHall.com) for Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame events. McCord broke into pro sports coverage during two years in Cleveland as an in-house reporter for the Browns, then working for CBS Radio covering pop-culture news and sports on a local morning show.



Annah Mowad McGuffey dazzles and wins **BIG** on Wheel of Fortune

Pineville native and Baton Rouge resident Annah Mowad McGuffey dominated her appearance on the long-running TV game show Wheel of Fortune when it aired Oct. 3. Annah won a trip to Hawaii and a Ford Flex for solving the final puzzle.

Viewers can see clips of Annah on the show here:

<https://www.facebook.com/wheeloffortune/videos/2183929654950771/>

Annah is married to former Demon baseball player Will McGuffey, who attended the show, along with their daughter Cecelia and Annah's sisters Sarah and Elizabeth.



Here is Anna's story as she tells it.

It's so hard to put it all into words!

I have been a huge fan of Wheel of Fortune since I was a kid. I always would joke that I would be on the show one day. I am that person that is no fun to watch the show with because I guess the puzzles really quick. One day I was checking my email and noticed Wheel of Fortune was looking for contestants and decided to send in a video right then and there, in my car 😊. Never would I imagine 3 months later I would receive an email inviting me to an invite only audition in New Orleans! So of course I went! My groups time slot was 3 p.m. with 40 other people. They would randomly call on each person to try and solve a puzzle. Everyone got at least one shot. At the end of the audition they ask some people to stay for a closer look and told everyone if you were chosen as a contestant you would receive a letter in the mail in the next 2 weeks. I was not asked to stay and was super bummed! I thought I missed my shot. Later that night I did some research. I found something that said if you were good enough in your video and you matched up in person, they may have already decided you would be a perfect fit! So the wait began. On day 10 I went to get the mail and there it was!!! An envelope with the wheel of fortune logo on it!!! I had been chosen as a contestant!!! Two months later I received an email with my official tape date. My sweet 7-year-old daughter would follow me around the house with the wheel of fortune app to help me prepare. She watched it with me every night, too. I would have my husband watch a show and get all the answers and create puzzles for me to practice like I was on the show.

My husband Will, daughter Cecilia, sisters Sarah and Elizabeth and I went to Sony Studios in Culver City, California, to film the show. I was like a kid at Disney taking in everything. The time had finally come for me to live out my dream! I was nervous all day until that first puzzle popped up and it was game on. At that point I blocked everything out and focused on each puzzle. They advise you to focus on the puzzle while the wheel is spinning and not what you land on. That's why I would be caught off guard and react the way I did when I would land on something. It was hard for me to hold my excitement in during the show as you could see 😊. When the last puzzle came up I told myself I have to get my family on tv. They were such a huge support and I wanted them to be seen, too. I had to win this puzzle! In the speed round you have 3 secs to guess as many times as needed. When I was guessing Yorkshire Terrier I had no clue I was putting an "A" in front of it. I thought they couldn't understand my accent! That's why I kept saying it in different ways. Then finally I didn't put the A in the front and won!!!! Off to the bonus puzzle I went. When the puzzle first was put up I told myself if the L and N show up in the first word it's playing. I had no clue what the second word was. So I chose P and G with a random C to hopefully fill in the second word. As soon as the P showed in the second word hop popped in my head. Then the C sealed the deal it was hopscotch!!! OMG I am about to win the bonus puzzle!!!! PLAYING HOPSCOTCH!!!! I had just crushed my dream!!! This was an experience I will never forget and was so happy to have had my family there to experience it with me.

NORTHWESTERN STATE ALUMNI PLAZA



Engraved Brick (\$100)

All supporters of Northwestern State University are invited to celebrate their lifelong connection to the university by participating in the growth of the Alumni Plaza. Please consider contributing to this endeavor, which will help ensure that the great traditions of community, commitment and excellence at NSU continue.



northwesternstatealumni.com/donations/alumni_plaza/

Spotlights

Savannah Thibodeaux (2018), a Baton Rouge native with a bachelor's degree in theater from Northwestern State University was chosen as a member of the Associate Company of Playhouse on the Square, a resident professional theater company in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Associate Company is an internship program that began in 1981. It includes 16 young college graduates hired to assist in all phases of production for Circuit Playhouse, Inc. The program was begun to enable emerging theater artists to explore every avenue of the profession and apply their education in the real world. Thibodeaux will serve as production stage manager for The Circuit Playhouse this season.

Thibodeaux's stage management credits include managing productions of "Rent," "9 to 5," "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and "Tarzan."



Randy Pierce (1982) was named the new CEO and general manager of DEMCO, an electric distribution cooperative providing power in and around the greater Baton Rouge

area. Pierce served more than 20 years as CEO of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) in Baton Rouge before taking over the top spot at DEMCO. DEMCO is the state's largest electric distribution cooperative with more than 124,000 meters and 8,500 miles of power line spanning seven parishes in the state capitol region.

During his time at ALEC, Pierce was the point person representing the organization's member cooperatives at the Louisiana Legislature and the Louisiana Public Service Commission. He was responsible for meeting with commissioners, legislators and policy-makers about key issues such as renewable power, competitive practices, net metering, regional transmission rules and regula-

tions and many other matters.

Louisiana's electric cooperatives provide electric service to over 1 million consumers in 50 of the state's 64 parishes.

Pierce, a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School and NSU, began his electric cooperative career as director of public relations at Valley Electric at his hometown of Natchitoches. He later served for 12 years as a manager of marketing and public affairs at Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission company owned jointly by the state's rural electric distribution cooperatives.

In 1995, Pierce joined ALEC as director of regulatory affairs and editor of Louisiana Country, the monthly publication for ALEC member cooperatives.

He is past president of the Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Member Services Association and the Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He has served on the boards of the Audubon Girl Scout Council, the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation and St. Andrews United Methodist Church.



JoAnn Pugh (1969) and her husband Nick received the 2018 Leaders in Philanthropy Award for Lafayette Parish Nov. 15 from the Community Founda-

tion of Acadiana and Hancock Whitney. The Pugh's success as entrepreneurs in communications technology helped them establish the Pugh Family Foundation, which focuses on developing and implementing strategies to support students and educators, especially those working in high-poverty communities. The foundation supports after-school tutoring programs and non-profit organizations, including Hope for Opelousas, New Hope Community Development of Acadiana, Boys and Girls Clubs of Acadiana, the Lafayette Education Foundation, the Lafayette Parish Public Education Stakeholders' Council and One Acadiana.

Leaders in Philanthropy Awards are presented each year to outstanding individuals or couples from CFA's 8-parish service area who have made a philanthropic impact in their communities through substantial charitable contributions or by attracting contributions to non-profits, churches and schools.

Billie Jo Cryer Brotherton, who is currently serving as the president of the Bossier Parish School Board, was selected as grand marshal of Houghton High School's 49th annual Homecoming parade. Billie Jo is a life-long resident of Bossier Parish who attended Houghton High School from first grade until graduating with honors in 1971. She attended Northwestern State University, where she graduated with honors with a B.A. in kindergarten/elementary education. Brotherton graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a Masters +30 in elementary education.

Healthy Learners announced **M. John Heydel** as the 2018 recipient of the Health Learners Champion for Children Award, an honor that recognizes an individual who has served as an advocate for children and brought attention to the needs of underserved children in the community through volunteer time, financial support and commitment to Healthy Learners.

Heydel was one of the visionaries behind the establishment of Healthy Learners in 1992. He is former president and CEO of Providence Hospitals and Self Regional Hospital where he served until retirement, has been involved with Healthy Learners for 26 years.

John has more than 35 years of experience in health care and holds a bachelor's degree from Northwestern State University and an MBA from Louisiana Tech University. He has served on and chaired several boards to include the Healthy Learners Board of Trustees, South Carolina Hospital Association, Palmetto Health Trust Service and Rotary Club of Greenwood past president, as well as President Emeritus of Self

Continued on page 5

Regional Healthcare and Countybank Trustee Emeritus. Heydel and his wife, Drenda reside in Greenwood, South Carolina.



Matthew Yerby (2011), a former Demon baseball player and multi-talented artist and writer, is the 2018 Natchitoches Christmas Festival poster artist. The poster was unveiled to the public Oct. 4. A native of Winn Parish, Yerby currently lives in Hollywood, California.

In 2019, Yerby will return to Natchitoches to film and direct an original screenplay, "Runaround Sue."

Information on the upcoming film is available at <https://www.seedandspark.com/fund/runaround-sue#story>

Bossier Parish Community College named their gymnasium in honor of **Billy "Coach" Montgomery**, who has been a pillar of the Bossier community for decades. A ceremony honoring Montgomery took place Nov. 5.

Coach Montgomery was an educator turned coach turned politician. He represented District 9 in the Louisiana House of Representatives and it was during that time over 14 years ago when he asked then Governor Mike Foster for \$60 million to build a new campus for BPCC. He also secured funding to purchase additional land that now houses BPCC

campus parking and recently spearheaded a land donation from a private family for the college as well.

Coach Montgomery completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Northwestern State University. He served in the US Army from 1959 to 1964. During that time, he started his career as a teacher and coach while still serving his country.

In 1991, he was named to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Coaches and Administrators Hall of Fame. Currently, he serves on the Bossier Parish Police Jury assisting with special projects.

Lane Luckie (2008) was recipient of an Emmy Award for Best Morning Newscast from the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in November. Luckie is the anchor of Good Morning East Texas, the top-rated morning newscast in East Texas. He joined KLTU, the ABC affiliate in Tyler in 2012.



Luckie previously served as evening anchor and executive producer at KTRE-TV in Lufkin and Nacogdoches. He came to East Texas from KTAL-TV in Shreveport, where he was a general assignments reporter. Lane also spent four years working for the Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Earlier in 2018, Luckie was selected as a fellow of the East-West Center's China-United States Journalist Exchange and traveled to China to explore current issues related to the important bilateral relationship between the world's two largest economies. As part of the fellowship, Luckie visited Asia in September to meet with economists, think tank groups, fellow journalists and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The

program was themed "Business and Trade: Opportunities and Challenges." His travels took him and other participating journalists through 5,000 years of China's history, including visits to the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City and Tienanmen Square where they got a firsthand look at a wide range of topics that include U.S.-China relations, economic growth and challenges in each country; stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region; and current social, cultural and political issues in China and the United States.

Shreveport businessman and philanthropist **John Manno Jr.** (1978) has been named chairman of Shreveport's KTBS 3/St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway. The 2019 campaign will act as a transitional year with Manno's predecessor, Dr. Donald Mack, who created the Giveaway, serving as chairman emeritus.

Nationally the St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway is one of the largest single-event fundraisers for St. Jude nationwide and has raised more than \$400 million.

Manno, owner of Southland Printing, is a long-time supporter of Northwestern State, a member of the NSU Foundation Board of Directors and executive board member of fund raising and special events for the university.



The Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce announced in November **Laura Terrell Lyles** as its new president. Lyles will be responsible for leading and building upon all existing Chamber events, enhancing and building membership and spearheading several new Chamber initiatives.

A Natchitoches native, Lyles is passionate about her hometown. She graduated from Natchitoches Central High School and Northwestern State University in 2005 where she earned a degree in Hospitality, Management &

Continued on page 6

Music educators recognized for excellence in their profession

Graduates of Northwestern State University's music education program are being recognized for excellence in their professions. Christopher Williams, director of bands at Destrehan High School, was named recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Young Educator by the Louisiana Music Educators Association (LMEA) and Karl Carpenter, principal at Pineville High School, was named LMEA's Outstanding Administrator. Jessica Fain, director of bands at Tioga Junior High, was featured in "The Instrumentalist" magazine after being named 2018 Louisiana Bandmaster of the Year.

Williams graduated from Northwestern State in 2015 with a bachelor's of music education with certification in instrumental music (K-12) and vocal music (K-12). He is in his third year of teaching at Destrehan and in his second as director of bands. At NSU, Williams was involved with Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He has taught drum corps for the last five summers and is currently teaching brass at the Phantom Regiment based in Rockford, Illinois.

Carpenter earned a bachelor's degree in music education in 1979 and a master's degree in music at Northwestern in 1987 before completing his doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi in 2001. He began his career in 1979 as a band director serving at Oberlin High School, Winnfield Senior High and Tioga High School before becoming assistant



Christopher Williams



Karl Carpenter



Jessica Fain

principal at Tioga. He later assumed leadership as principal at Carter C. Raymond Middle School and is currently principal at Pineville High School, where he has served since 2007.

Fain was profiled in "The Instrumentalist" in a feature titled "How the 2018 Louisiana Bandmaster of the Year keeps her seventh and eighth graders working hard and playing well." "The Instrumentalist" is an American monthly magazine for music educators — focusing on scholastic band and orchestra — and performing artists and composers.

Now in her 10th year of teaching, the 2018 Bandmaster of the Year for the Louisiana Bandmasters Association shared tips on how she keeps her seventh and eighth grade students motivated. She also team teaches with the Tioga High School band director Ty Lege, also a 2009 graduate of NSU.

Fain earned a bachelor's degree in music education in 2009. As a student, she was involved with Sigma Alpha Iota, Kappa Delta Pi, Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band.

Little Purple Jacket returns to NSU



Judy Johnson of Austin, Texas, contacted NSU Dean of Students Frances Conine to let her know she found a Purple Jacket doll/figurine while going through her mother's things. The doll is a Purple Jacket student from 1942. Her parents are the late Katherine Shaw Johnson and Oris Johnson, who met and fell in love at Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was then known. The figurine was probably a gift from Lucile Hendrick, long-time Dean of Women who made gifts for her students, to a special Purple Jacket.

"She was a prized possession to Mrs. Johnson and according to her daughter traveled around the world twice as the couple traveled with Oris's U.S. Airforce career," Conine said. "As daughter Judy says, 'the figurine screams her era.' She is so very 1940s. She will have a place of honor in the Purple Jacket sponsor's office from here out. I've received lots of Purple Jacket memorabilia over the years but never a doll/figurine. She is wearing a replica of the official jacket of that time."

ter Judy says, 'the figurine screams her era.' She is so very 1940s. She will have a place of honor in the Purple Jacket sponsor's office from here out. I've received lots of Purple Jacket memorabilia over the years but never a doll/figurine. She is wearing a replica of the official jacket of that time."

Spotlights *continued from page 5*

Tourism with a minor in English. Lyles earned her MBA from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. At NSU, she was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma, serving as president her senior year. She was also a member of the Student Activities Board and Order of Omega, which she also served as president. She was a Freshman Connector and worked at the Natatorium as a swim coach and water aerobics instructor.

After working in New Orleans and Oklahoma City, Laura and her family returned to Natchitoches in 2015.

Her husband Dr. Chris Lyles is assistant professor of biology at NSU. He graduated from NSU in 2004 with a degree in biology and was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity serving as Archon his junior year. He was a member of the American Society of Microbiology and a student worker in the Department of Biology. He earned a master's degree in marine and environmental biology from Nicholls State and Ph.D. in microbiology and postdoctoral fellowship from the University of Oklahoma.

They are parents to two boys, Carson and Cooper.

Eckert selected NEA Learning Fellow



Northwestern State University alumna Kimberly Eckert, right, was selected as one of the 1019 NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellows. She is pictured with Susan Koch, a first grade teacher from Montpelier, Vermont.

Northwestern State University alumna Kimberly Eckert was selected as a NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellow and attended the "Keeping the Promise of Public Education" symposium in Washington, D.C., on World Teachers Day, Oct. 5. The NEA Foundation, a separate entity from National Education Association, developed the Global Learning Fellowship to allow educators the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills to integrate global competency into their daily classroom instruction, advocate for global competency in their schools and districts and help students thrive in our increasingly interconnected world.

After a selection process, one fellow is selected from each state to embark on 12 months of professional development that culminates in an international exchange that enables them to design lesson plans with global focus connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to become better equipped for advocacy.

Eckert's task will culminate in South Africa in Summer 2019.

Eckert is a high school English teacher at Brusly High School. She earned a Bachelor of Social Work in 2004 and Master's of Education in special education in 2013 at NSU and is also a reading specialist. In addition to serving as an NEA Global Fellow, she is also a Stand for Children's LEAD Fellow, recently received Louisiana's Public Interest Fellowship for work with Educators Rising and is the 2018 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year.

"I can't imagine a better way to have celebrated World Teachers Day 2018 than by listening to the beautiful stories of teachers inspiring us to keep the promise of public education," Eckert said. "I got to meet the other 2019 Fellows for The NEA Foundation and I'm so thankful to be a part of this group committed to global education."

On the Bookshelf: 'Sang pour sang' by Ryan Smith

Sang
pour
Sang

W. Ryan Smith

W. Ryan Smith (2006) recently published a historic fiction novel set in Natchitoches that features a number of real characters as well as fictional characters.

"Sang pour sang" is set at the close of the Civil War with a story that centers on Adam Pierce, a Louisiana Creole of color passing for white. "Sang pour sang" explores the frailties of the human condition as the depths of passion are navigated, suffering is redeemed and mindless savagery

envelopes those who were once ordinary people.

The book was published by the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Press and is available for \$20 by visiting ulpress.org and searching under New Releases.

Smith began writing Sang pour Sang in January 2014 and completed the manuscript that December. He said that "Sang pour Sang" is inspired directly by his time in Natchitoches. He enrolled at NSU, where his grandfather, Jack W. Huckaby, played football in the 1940s and is in the N Club Hall of Fame.

Smith lived in Natchitoches from 2002 until 2011, when he took a job at hospital in Shreveport. He earned two degrees, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2006 and Masters of Arts in Heritage Resources in 2009. His wife, Leslie Ann Ross Smith, is also an NSU grad.

Smith said "Sang pour Sang" is some ways an attempt to relate the horrific impact the Civil War's Red River Campaign had on the area and its people.

"The work is a result of much research. I read many soldier and civilian diaries, contemporaneous newspaper accounts, wartime after-action reports, etc. If it was raining that day, then the story is written that way. Some very minor liberties were taken in terms of geography, but at its core this is a fictional tale that needs little imagination to believe. Returning to geography, the title for the book, *Sang pour Sang* ("Blood for Blood"), is derived from the name of a hill in lower Natchitoches Parish that is prominently featured in the story. It is also a play on Adam's quest for revenge."

There are a number of historical figures in the book Smith added to further authenticity to the story.

"Sang pour Sang" is a little southern gothic, a little Greek tragedy, and a little war fiction all mixed together," Smith said.

The book is available through ulpress.org.



Homecoming 2018

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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GENEROUSITY OF
NSU CHAPTER
PHI DELTA KAPPA



Hall of Distinguished Educators honors 2018 inductees

Northwestern State University honored several alumni with induction into the Hall of Distinguished Educators during Homecoming festivities. This year's inductees included Kimberly Eckert, Jacque Crew, Melanie McCain, the late Johnny McFerren Dan Poole and Dr. Dan Seymour. A College of Education reception and reunion took place just prior to the induction ceremony in the Teacher Education Center. From left are Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Vickie Gentry, Eckert, family and friends of the late Mr. McFerren Eugene Sartor, Karen McFerren, Scott McFerren, and Lori McFerren; Seymour, Crew, McCain, Poole, NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and Dr. Kimberly McAlister, dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

Scholars' alum Dr. Heather Goltz earns Jimmy Long Award



Dr. Heather Honore Goltz was recognized as this 2018 recipient of the Jimmy D. Long, Sr., Louisiana Scholars' College Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is presented annually to a graduate of the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University who has been extraordinarily successful in their career and also exemplified the life of public service and commitment exhibited by the late Louisiana Senator Jimmy Long.

Dr. Goltz, an associate professor of Social Work at the University of Houston, has a long list of accomplishments. Beyond her teaching experience and honors, she has an extensive research background particularly in support of patients with cancer and genitourinary conditions. Dr. Goltz has also been very involved in advocacy groups, not only for cancer patients but for health issues for minority groups. Goltz earned a degree in biology with a concentration in scientific inquiry at NSU in 1997. She earned an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction-teaching with emphasis in the health sciences and M.S.W. with a mental health concentration at the University of Houston. She earned her Ph.D. in health education at Texas A & M University. She was recognized during Homecoming festivities at NSU Oct. 27 and congratulated by Dr. Kirsten Bartels, left, director of the Louisiana Scholars' College, and LSC student Aron Stephens, right.

A Gathering of Kings and Queens, Mr. and Miss NSUs



Past members of Northwestern State's Homecoming Honor Court and Mr. and Mrs. Northwestern State were feted with a reunion luncheon on Homecoming Saturday, sharing stories from their student days and their most treasured memories of NSU. On the front row are 2018 Homecoming King and Queen Char'Tarian Wilson of Shreveport and Rebekah Aultman of Mangham and 2018 Miss and Mr. NSU Mallory McConathy of Stonewall and Antavious Roberson of Arcadia.



Northwestern's 1970 Homecoming Queen Diana Lehr Phillips (1971) of Zachary was surprised with a Homecoming crown during the reunion of Kings and Queens and Mr. and Miss NSUs Oct. 27. Phillips, who was also a cheerleader and married to her husband Al, was never presented with a crown. Joining the surprise were NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and 2018 Homecoming Queen and King Rebekah Aultman of Mangham and Char'Tarian Wilson of Shreveport.



Jazz musicians kick off Homecoming weekend with reunion concert

Musicians from through the decades returned to the NSU campus for the Jazz Orchestra Alumni reunion and concert Homecoming weekend. The ensemble performed Friday, Oct. 26 under the direction of Galindo Rodriguez with featured performers Carlos Ortiz IV (2009) on trumpet and D'nissa Hester (2010), vocalist, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Rodriguez has been working with the NSU jazz band since the 1980s and in 1987 established the Jazz Artist Concert Series and named the University Jazz Orchestra. Primary goals for the group were to perform music from all eras of jazz history and to host world-class performing artists so that student musicians could collaborate with professionals with live performances. Guest musicians, including Ellis Marsalis, Mike Vax and members of the Count Basie Orchestra to name a few, have visited NSU over the years for clinics, masterclasses, concerts and jam sessions in Natchitoches.

Wind Symphony will perform in Spain

Northwestern State University's Wind Symphony has been selected to perform at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles conference in Buñol, Spain, July 10-13, 2019. WASBE is the only international organization of wind band conductors, composers, performers, publishers, teachers, instrument makers and friends of wind music. It is the only organization completely dedicated to enhancing the quality of the wind band throughout the world and exposing its members to new worlds of repertoire, musical culture, people and places.

"In the band directing profession, this is considered a significant achievement," said Director of Bands Dr. Jeff Mathews. "Bands from all over the world apply to perform at this conference and only a few are chosen. An international panel of band directors reviews the applications and recordings of each group and then decides who will be invited to perform."

The NSU Wind Symphony is a concert band that performs in winter and spring. Participation is by audition and members are regarded as among the top musicians in the department.

"At Northwestern, we are famous for our marching band, so this is fantastic for the program that our concert band -- our serious musical side -- is being recognized as well," Mathews said. "Some of our best recruiters

are band directors and when they see our concert band being recognized like this is another way to encourage students to choose NSU."

To apply for WASBE, Mathews submitted a recording of the ensemble's spring concert for review by the WASBE Artistic Planning Committee. The recording was peer-reviewed by an international committee of wind band conductors. He also submitted concert programs covering the last three years to inform the Artistic Planning Committee of the style and caliber of work the ensemble typically performs, a history of the program and a proposed program of what they will perform at the WASBE conference in Spain.

"Since becoming Director of Bands, one of my goals has been to grow the reputation of our concert bands through performances like this one at the WASBE conference," Mathews said. "Many folks that have never heard of us will be looking us up soon."

Buñol is a municipality in the province of Valencia. Alumni, friends and others are welcome to join the trip, which departs the U.S. July 7 and returns July 14. Details will be available soon.

NSU's performance at the conference will be live-streamed for internet viewers and recordings will be available for purchase of the performance.

Biology lab will be named after Jack Pace

Northwestern State University will name a laboratory in Bienvenu Hall for the late Dr. Jack Pace. The university received approval from the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to name Room 217 of Bienvenu Hall as the Dr. Jack Pace Memorial Human Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory.

Pace passed away in August. He was a member of Northwestern State's faculty from 1974 to 2015 and was awarded the title of professor emeritus upon his retirement.

During his 41 years at NSU, Pace taught animal science and preparatory classes for the nursing curriculum, served as head of the Departments of Agriculture and Biological Sciences and served as advisor for the NSU rodeo team and on the NSU Vet Technology Committee.

The Pace Laboratory is used primarily for the human anatomy and physiology education of nursing and allied health majors.

Pace was a member of Natchitoches Parish Police Jury and Natchitoches Parish Fair Board. He served with Natchitoches Parish Farm Bureau as a board member since 1979, was a former president and was voted to the State Farm Bureau Board. He served on the Natchitoches 4-H board, was a member of the Natchitoches Jaycees and was past Master of the Masonic Lodge and Shriners. He was a gubernatorial appointee as an advisor to the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District.

A scholarship has been set up in Pace's name at the NSU Foundation to benefit Northwestern State students majoring in biology. Details are available in a related photo on Page 12.



Burroughs honored with scholarship that will benefit English majors



Northwestern State University's Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies has established a scholarship fund in honor of the late Dr. Sara Burroughs. Donations will be used to fund three student scholarships for English majors. The target fundraising goal is \$60,000.

"These scholarships in honor of Dr. Burroughs, a popular professor and distinguished department faculty member, are the first of their kind for the English major at NSU," said Department Chair Dr. Jim Mischler. "We have many gifted students who are in great need of funds to begin or continue their education, but we have not had the resources to help them to secure the educational financing needed. Our students should have the freedom to focus on their studies and not how they will pay for school next semester. Your generous donation will help English majors to succeed in school, in the workplace, and in life."

Burroughs, who passed away in spring 2018, attended Centenary College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. She advanced her education with a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Texas, a Master of Arts in English from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. from the

University of Oklahoma.

"She was the consummate scholar and English professor, beloved by her colleagues and the students she taught for 27 years at NSU," Mischler said.

During her tenure, she was chair of the department from 1987-1992 and received the Excellence in Teaching Award; she was named Professor Emerita in 2008. She retired in 1999 and moved to Shreveport. In retirement, she remained active in church and community activities. She lived life to the fullest, traveling to all parts of the world.

Donors can make a tax-deductible donation by visiting [English.nsula.edu/donate](https://english.nsula.edu/donate) and specify that the gift should go to the Department of English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies, Dr. Sara Burroughs English Scholarship Fund.

To make a tax-deductible donation, there are two ways to give. Donors can visit <https://english.nsula.edu/donate/> and specify that the gift go to the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies, Dr. Sara Burroughs English Scholarship Fund or mail a check to the Department of English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies, 318 Kyser Hall, 165 Sam Sibley Drive, NSU, Natchitoches, LA. 71497. Checks should indicate Dr. Sara Burroughs Scholarship in the memo line. For more information, call the department office at (318) 357-6272.

Renovated and updated, NSU's bookstore reopens



Northwestern State University administrators, members of the NSU Foundation Board, Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce and Follett Higher Education hosted a ribbon cutting for the NSU Marketplace, the newly-renovated campus bookstore located at 912 University Parkway. The bookstore renovation and reopening are the result of a partnership between the University and Follett, a leading provider of education technology and services. In addition to textbooks, the NSU Marketplace offers Northwestern State merchandise, clothing, supplies, technology and Apple products. The ribbon-cutting took place in conjunction with Homecoming Festivities Oct. 26.

Our Supporters



Daddy Thib shakes things up with Demon Dust

Dr. James Thibodaux will donate a portion of all sales of his Demon Dust Cajun Seasoning to the Northwestern State University Foundation to support student scholarships. From left are NSU Development Officer Brittany McNeely, NSU student Joseph Thibodaux, Dr. James Thibodaux and NSU Director of Development Jill Bankston.

Dr. James Thibodaux hopes a little Demon Dust will help a few deserving students seeking to earn a degree from Northwestern State University. Thibodaux has partnered with the NSU Foundation to allow a portion of sales from his popular Cajun seasoning mix go to the NSU Foundation to support student scholarships.

Demon Dust retails for \$7, of which \$.50 will go to the NSU Foundation to support student scholarships. Demon Dust is available at Cane River Kitchenware, NSU Marketplace campus bookstore, Propane Etc., Nichols, the Natchitoches Farmer's Market and at all NSU tailgates.

A Natchitoches physician, Northwestern State University alum and renown cook, Thibodaux has tinkered with seasonings and condiments for several years, originally giving them away to family and friends. He began marketing his creations as Daddy Thib's Original Louisiana Spice Blends, which

include Shake 'N Rub, Lemon Jalapeno and Touch of Fire spice blends, chick fry and fish fry. He has been a fixture at the Natchitoches Farmer's Market where shoppers can also find Daddy Thib's salsa, marinara, barbecue sauce and jellies.

"It's something fun to do and a great way to meet people," he said.

Thibodaux and his wife Nina are NSU alumni and parents to eight children and are often found quantity cooking for school functions, his office staff and gatherings of family and friends. Their two oldest children, Joseph and David, are current NSU students.

Thibodaux graduated from NSU in 1993 with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. His wife Nina graduated in 1994 with a degree in music education and flute performance.

Information on Daddy Thib's Original Louisiana Spice Blends is available at daddythibfoods.com.

Farm Bureau

Natchitoches Parish Farm Bureau made a contribution to the Jack W. Pace Memorial Endowed Scholarship at Northwestern State University in appreciation for the late Dr. Pace's service to Farm Bureau as a member of the board since 1979. Pace was a past president of Natchitoches Parish Farm Bureau and was recently voted onto the State Farm Bureau Board. He passed away Aug. 3. The scholarship will be presented to a Northwestern State student from Louisiana majoring in biology who must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better. From left are Farm Bureau Agents Lance Lopez and Ron Brown, Natchitoches Farm Bureau Board President James Wagley, Bonnie Pace, NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and Dr. Francene Lemoine, head of NSU's Department of Biological and Physical Sciences.





Pilgrim's Pride - Natchitoches Complex



Pilgrim's Pride – Natchitoches Complex donated \$10,000 to Northwestern State University's Department of Engineering Technology in thanks for the hard work NSU students and faculty put into a project at the local facility.

Bernard Johnson, Complex Safety and Health Manager at Pilgrim's – Natchitoches Complex, thanked the Engineering Technology faculty and students for their exceptional service and assistance with an ergonomic assessment. Pilgrim's received great feedback because of the assistance of NSU faculty, staff and students, he said. From left are Jill Bankston, Holden Rivers, Lorita Lovemore, Kimberly Gallow, Al Holden, Mark Haecker, Bernard Johnson, NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Jafar Al-Sharab, Dr. Nabin Sapkota, Alisa Hall and Patrick Sprung.

Nakatosh Shrine Club



The Nakatosh Shrine Club presented Maci Cheatwood of Saline with a scholarship to Northwestern State University. Cheatwood was recipient of the Honesty and integrity Award from Ashland Masonic Lodge in 2017. Cheatwood graduated with honors from Saline High School and is pursuing a degree in early childhood education. Her parents are Matt and Marsha Cheatwood of Saline. The Nakatosh Shriners Club Scholarship is a four-year award presented to an incoming freshman associated with Robeline Lodge #344, Ajax Lodge, Phoenix #38 and Ashland Lodge #196. The recipient must maintain a 2.5 or better grade point average. On the front row from left are Sam Friday, Lennie Shankle, Cheatwood, Doug Pesnell, Mace Morris and Doyle Waddle. On the back row are Jedd Orr, Ronnie Quick and Mark Thomas.



All-Americans **Latrell Frederick** and **Jermaine Jones**, NFL standout **Floyd Turner**, softball slugger **Brandy Kenney**, tennis star **Barbara Tons** and basketball professional **Larry Terry** headlined nine Northwestern State athletic figures honored Oct. 27 at the 2018 N-Club Hall of Fame ceremony during the Demons' homecoming celebration.

Joining the six athletes as inductees in the Class of 2018 are former softball and volleyball coach **Rickey McCalister** and retired athletic trainer **Ed Evans**. Becoming the second-ever recipient of the N-Club's Leadership Award was venerable NSU vice president **Jerry Pierce**.

They were selected by a combination of voting by members of the N-Club, the association of former athletic letterwinners at NSU, and a committee of N-Club members and NSU administrators.

Enshrinement in the N-Club Hall of Fame is the highest honor Northwestern State Athletics bestows on its former competitors and staff. Those receiving N-Club Hall of Fame recognition are showcased in the brand-new N-Club display in Prather Coliseum.

Frederick was a three-time All-American in the javelin in 2000, 2001 and 2003, along with capturing the 1999 USA Junior National championship as a Demon freshman. The Benton native won three Southland Conference titles while overcoming a serious elbow injury throwing 255-7 at the USA Outdoors, coming back from surgery to win the conference title the following May.

Frederick was fifth at the NCAA Outdoors in 2000 and 2001, and 12th as a senior in 2003. He set the school record for the redesigned javelin with a 261-3 throw to win the NCAA Midwest Regional championship in 2003, nearly a year after his injury.

Jones, a high school basketball

Honored at the 2018 N-Club Hall of Fame ceremony on Homecoming Saturday were nine people with major impact on the university's athletic landscape. The N-Club, the association of athletic letterwinners at Northwestern, gave Hall of Fame recognition to (right to left) three-time track and field All-America javelin thrower Latrell Frederick, former softball and volleyball coach Rickey McCalister, 1998 football All-American Jermaine Jones, Lady Demon tennis great Barbara Tons, basketball standout Larry Terry, retired athletic trainer Ed Evans, vice president of External Affairs Jerry Pierce, former director of sports medicine and team physician Dr. Chris Rich, and longtime NFL receiver Floyd Turner.

standout in Morgan City, played football at NSU from 1995-98 and developed into a consensus All-America cornerback on the Demons' dynamic 1998 Southland Conference championship team that reached the FCS playoff semifinals and with a No. 3 national ranking. As a senior, Jones was runner-up for the Buck Buchanan Award voted to the top defensive player in the FCS, along with winning 1998 Southland Conference Player of the Year and All-Louisiana Defensive Player of the Year.

He scored five touchdowns on returns (two interceptions, two punts and a fumble) while setting the school record for career pass breakups (44) with future Pro Bowl standout Terrence McGee, setting the single-season record in 1998 with 21. A fifth-round NFL Draft pick (Jets) in 1999 despite his size (5-7, 172), Jones became a star in the Arena League for Dallas in a career that lasted until 2008.

Turner, a walk-on from Mansfield, set the Demons' career receptions record (105, now sixth) while starring for the 1988 Southland Conference champions who reached the FCS quarterfinals. Turner's 1,810 career receiving yards was second in school history when he wrapped up his career, and now stands fourth.

He was a 1989 sixth-round NFL Draft pick by New Orleans, playing nine years in the NFL with the Saints (1989-93), Colts (1994-95) and the Ravens (1996, 1998). In 114 NFL games, he had 281 catches for 3,805 yards and 31 touchdowns.

Kenney was a three-time All-Southland third baseman and designated player who helped the Lady Demons win three Southland softball titles in 1998, 1999 and 2000. She started a school-record 225 games and had a career .313 batting average with 22 home runs, 120 RBI, a .509 slugging percentage, setting school records with 225 starts, 216 hits, 352 total bases, and 62 doubles, which remains a program best nearly 20 years after her career ended.

Kenney was the 1998 Co-Hitter of the Year in the Southland and was a three-year All-Southland Tournament selection, helping NSU make NCAA Tournament appearances in 1998 and 2000.

Terry, a Ponchatoula native, has two of the top single-game scoring outputs in school history, a 39-point outing that ranks fourth and a 35-pointer that is sixth. He scored 1,342 points (13.2 average) from 1991-94, including a senior season average of 22.5 that is fourth in school history.

Terry took part in NBA preseason camps with the Boston Celtics and New Jersey Nets while also playing professionally overseas. He helped the 1991-92 Demons lead the NCAA with a 94.5 scoring average.

Tons was a highly successful Lady Demon tennis player from 1986-89 who helped NSU win conference championships as a freshman and senior. She is fourth all-time in school history with her .814 career doubles winning percentage, eighth in doubles wins (87-14), and eighth on the career singles victory list (46-22). NSU was 50-18 in dual

Continued on page 15

Student-athletes celebrate Leola Loftin's 100th birthday

Northwestern State University honored alumna Leola Hunter Loftin of Natchitoches by hosting a surprise 100th birthday party in which she was congratulated by student-athletes, coaches and NSU Athletics staff. Loftin's birthday was Sept. 14 and her celebration continued through the weekend with visits and well-wishes from friends and family.

Loftin is a native of Red River Parish and a 1938 graduate of Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was then known, where she and her husband Bill earned degrees in education. Both taught at Martin in Red River Parish and Mrs. Loftin worked summers at the NSU library, first in what is now Russell Hall and later in NSU's Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library. When her husband was named Superintendent of Schools in Red River Parish, Mrs. Loftin went to work at the NSU library full-time in government documents in 1962 and later in acquisitions until her retirement in 1977. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the professional honor society for women educators, in Natchitoches and Red River parishes.

Bill Loftin, who passed away in 2006, was a star basketball player for the Demons from 1934-38. Mr. Loftin served in General George Patton's Third Army during World War II. He later became a coach and principal and spent nearly a decade as superintendent of schools in Red River Parish.

The Loftins were devoted supporters of NSU basketball through the years and Mr. Loftin was the recipient of the Graduate N-Club "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2005 when he was believed to have been the oldest living Demon basketball alumnus. After his passing in 2006, the family established the Bill Loftin Men's Basketball Scholarship in his memory.



NSU alumna, former librarian and long-time athletic supporter Leola Loftin was honored with a birthday party to celebrate her 100th birthday, hosted by the NSU Athletic Department. Several student-athletes attended the Sept. 14, 2018, event to wish her well. On the front row from left are Elise Vincent, Ryann Bizette, Loftin and Edward Clark. On the back row are DeAndre Love, Vontay Ott, Markeit Stevenson, Collin Monaghan and Tia Elmore. Loftin graduated from Louisiana State Normal in 1938.

N-Club Hall of Fame *continued from page 14*

match play in her career.

Evans was head athletic trainer from 1989-2012 who served on the sports medicine staff in parts of five decades, beginning as a graduate assistant from 1979-82. He emerged as a leader in the field, serving 12 years as an officer (six years as president) of the Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association, and on the Governor's Council for Physical Fitness. In 2004, he was named the regional "College Athletic Trainer of the Year" by the Southeastern USA Athletic Trainers Association, encompassing seven states including Louisiana, Georgia and Kentucky.

McCalister served in a unique capacity as head softball and volleyball coach from 1987-94 and was manager of Prather Coliseum until 1994, with his greatest accomplishments coming on the diamond. His 245-199-2 (.545) coaching record in softball made him the school's winningest coach until this spring, when coach Donald Pickett overtook the win total.

McCalister's teams were 120-56-2

from 1990-92, highlighted by the 1991 Southland Conference championship team that won 44 games. He recruited and coached NSU's first softball All-American, catcher Rhonda Rube, and also coached the other Lady Demon with a retired jersey, outfielder Ginger Craig, in her senior season of 1987. One of his assistant coaches was former Demon tight end Glenn Moore, now the highly-successful head coach at Baylor.

Pierce has been involved with Demon athletics since his days as a student manager/trainer for coach Jack Clayton's football teams from 1958-61. He has overseen athletics as an administrator since the mid-1970s and became NSU's vice president for external affairs in 1990.

He is also responsible for bringing the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame to Natchitoches in 1971, establishing a display in Prather Coliseum and hosting the first induction (Pro Football Hall of Famer Y.A. Tittle) in 1972. After 19 years as Hall of Fame chairman, he relinquished the role when appointed vice president.

Demons, Lady Demons Basketball Reunion

>>> March 9 <<<

Former players, coaches and staff members from NSU Demon and Lady Demon basketball teams are invited to the annual Basketball Reunion on Saturday, March 9 at Prather Coliseum.

An alumni luncheon will be held in the west concourse of the coliseum at 11:45. The Lady Demons tip off at 1 p.m. and the Demons play at 3 o'clock against Central Arkansas.

Lady Demon alumni will be introduced at halftime of the women's game and again at halftime of the men's game, when they'll be joined by the Demon alumni at the reunion.

The doubleheader will end the regular season for both teams. Demons' coach Mike McConathy is in his 20th year as head coach at NSU.

For more information, Lady Demon alumni should call Kelsey Martin at 318-357-5891 while Demons' alumni should call 318-357-4274 and ask for Marsha Bolton.

NSU Alum, former Lady Demon reaches world stage

Former Northwestern State athlete Linzie Hebert rode to an eighth-place finish in the sprint distance for the 35-39 female age group at the of the 2018 International Triathlon Union World Grand Final Gold Coast in Brisbane, Australia last September.

"All I could hear was my own breath as I focused my eyes straight on the buoy in the final moments before the gun," said Hebert. "As it went off, I bolted into the water, forcing a path for myself. As I made the turn, I realized I was in the lead."

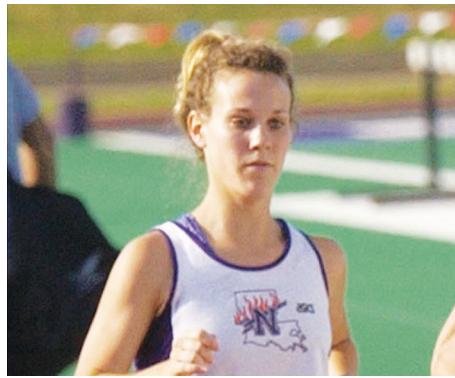
The former Linzie Ledford was a member of the NSU track and cross country teams from 2002-05 and is now a mother of four and still going strong at age 35.

The USA age group national team is chosen each year based on the results of the national championships to compete the following year in the sprint and Olympic distance events alongside the professional team at the World Grand Final.

The event included 5,000 athletes from 46 countries. Hebert completed the swim, bike, and running portions against 70 other qualifiers as the second American to finish.

After exiting the water, Hebert encountered a bit of trouble in the bicycle portion of the race but overcame it by forming a temporary alliance with a pair of other competitors. She began the ride solo before noticing a couple of strong bikers, and the trio decided to team up to keep each other at a good pace. The strategy worked for a while until one of her new alliances took a wrong turn.

"On our final stretch home my friend, Denton, missed her turn and headed straight for the roundabout and some cones," said Hebert. "I fell right in behind her, unclipping in time to get my foot to the ground without hitting the pavement. I was the last to straighten out back onto the course



and get clipped in. In that time, an entire 20-pack of women flew by me. When I finally reached Denton, I saw she had been unable to catch the swarm that had gone by us in the mishap and was working alone. I yelled from behind, 'I'm back! Let's go!'"

Eventually powering through the ride, she knew she could make up significant ground in the running portion. Maintaining a 6:30 mile pace, she passed a slew of competitors on her way to eighth place, only two minutes outside a bronze medal finish.

Though a lot of training has been put in since her days in purple and white, the most recent preparation for the prestigious event in Australia began 395 days prior. After winning the national championship at the 2017 United States Nationals in her age group, a chance encounter with an Australian former ironman champion, Rebekah Keat, led Hebert to a new coach and a new challenge.

Though Linzie is the one bringing home all the honors, she has a fantastic supporting cast in her family. Jeremy, a financial advisor in Ruston who is originally from New Orleans, was a defensive lineman for the Demons from 1999-2002. The pair met at an NSU Fellowship of Christian Athletes event.

"Jeremy is the best supporter, training partner, part-time coach, bike mechanic and travel planner in the world. The truth is, I have an incredible equal partner in my husband who goes above and beyond in every area in his life," said Hebert.

Also supporting her in any way they can are Linzie's parents and her four children: Hallie (10), Owen (7), Abram (5), and Amélie (3).

ENVELOPE

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Guess Who



50 years ago, the 1969 edition of Potpourri featured the Potpourri Ball Court. Can you name them? If so, email jacksonl@nsula.edu with your name, graduation year and city of residence.

1980-81 cheerleaders pictured with Chief Caddo were Diane Adams, Mike Barton, Kim Berry, Robert Douglas, Tony Hernandez, Kent Larrimer, Lisa Larrimer, Stacy Maddox, Susan Sands and Cindy Tuttle. Those who guessed correctly are as follows.

Susan Hawthorne Stanley (1973), Pollock
Dr. Bruce Bryant (1984), Shreveport



In Memory

- 1943 – Janet S. Magoun, Oct. 31, 2018, Jaffrey, Massachusetts
- 1948 – Dolores Dugas Parrott, March 21, 2013, Harlingen, Texas
- 1948 – James C. Parrott, Dec. 14, 2016, Harlinegen, Texas
- 1974 - Frank Cicero Sr., Aug. 26, 2018, Shreveport
- 1958 – Mary Jo Anderson, Sept. 10, 2018, Minden
- 1953 – Rosa Godwin Simmons, Sept. 5, 2018, Shreveport
- 1955 - Rev. Bob Tatum, Sept. 24, 2018, Celina, Texas
- 1960 – Rev. Dr. James Byron Slack Sr., Nov. 18, 2018, Richmond, Virginia
- 1965 – Martha Guay, Nov. 16, 2018, Many
- 1965 – Cecil Knotts, Nov. 4, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1967 – William Boyce Simmons, Nov. 9, 2018, Keithville
- 1996 – Charles Aldrich "Charlie" Vascocu, Oct. 21, 2018, Natchitoches
- 2004 – Nathan Noel Russell, Aug. 23, 2018, Georgetown, Texas
- 2017 -Oscar Allen Thompson II, Nov. 16, 2017, Anacoco
- Martha Marie Berry Chiochi, July 30, 2018, Santa Monica, California
- Michelle Lee Deriggs, Sept. 3, 2018, Carrollton, Texas
- Lois Krouse, Sept. 23, 2018, Minden
- Stephen Clarence King, Oct. 1, 2018, The Woodlands, Texas
- Daeshon Gordon, Oct. 21, 2018, Pompano Beach, Florida
- Elizabeth Ann Monaghan, Oct. 21, 2018, Lafayette
- Dr. John "Jay" Hix, Nov. 24, 2018, Natchitoches

Looking Back



"To the Normal Boys who entered our country's service, this Potpourri is lovingly dedicated," reads the cover page of the 1919 Potpourri yearbook that included a list of students who joined the armed forces to serve in World War I and an incomplete list of those who died.

"Soldiers of Normal who gave their lives so graciously, whether in active battle, in training camps, in the air, on board ship or where not, the students, faculty and alumni, board of administrators and all other friends of the Louisiana State Normal School pay to them this simple little tribute of great love and highest respect.

"On account of war and post-war conditions the plans for this Annual were not formulated until very late in this school year, hence our not being able to procure the exact data and pictures of these beloved dead, as we so desired, but the likeness of the excellent soldier, Gordon Peters – so young in years, yet so brave in spirit – which prefaces this 'In Memorium,' is symbolic of all our Normal boys and men, who in the very burst of youth and vigor, died that others might have more and better life, and 'That the government of the people, for the people, by the people, should not perish from the earth.'"



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